MAY 2021

ALBERTA ELKS NEWS

Not All Heros Wear Capes....

SOME WEAR PURPLE





The Carstairs Elks #556 was happy to donate $5000 to the Holland family last week to help with their wheelchair accessible van. The Elks wishes the Holland's all the best and we are thrilled to contribute to this cause. Be sure to follow your local Elks page so you can stay tuned on our initiatives in the community!



TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

ALBERTA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Presidents Message



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I believe that I can report that spring has finally arrived in the Yukon and I am optomistic that Summer will follow...an optimism I cannot share in regard to the lifting of the COVID restrictions on gatherings. We have been directed by Grand Lodge that we must hold our Conference by whatever means we are allowed, particularly to ensure that our Society's standing is up to date, budgets approved (for last year and this year) and Election of Officers conducted.

Conference 2021 will be different than anything we have ever anticipated, and certainly not one we want to hold in the virtual realm of our new reality. There are no polite words to describe the general consensus of how the Executive feels about this... and I'm sure many of you share the disappointment of not being able to get together to celebrate the good work we do and share our stories...not to mention great food, conversation and laughter. We also realize that a virtual Conference is something that many are finding intimidating...not only using a computer or iPad, but ZOOM?

On April 22nd, GER Barkley and incoming GER Koszman held a virtual fireside gathering by ZOOM attended by over sixty members from across Canada. Appearing in dinner jackets, seated comfortably with their brandy, our leaders spoke of the need for moving forward and answered questions from the members. The next day, our Executive Director posted the recording of the session so people could go "watch" the session. Many of the Districts are holding ZOOM Spring Meetings and to those I offer Kudoos! Those who have just tried ZOOM are amazed as how easy it is to get into the meetings and to participate. So, over the next couple of months, Lodges and members who have email on file will receive invitations to register for Alberta Fireside gatherings...I hope you watch for them and bite the bullet to try ZOOM. Our Secretary/Treasurer has posted a really simple and descriptive presentation on our website...

Brothers and Sisters...no one anticipated ever having to restrict our shopping, school, work or social gatherings, but here we are because no one wants to contract or spread the COVID virus to our friends or family. Since no one can predict how long we will be required to live within the restrictions, we MUST STEP UP and recognize that if we don't start having meetings by ZOOM, our members will lose interest, our communities will suffer and the Elks of Canada are at risk of extinction.
I have heard many stories about how some Lodges are operating without informing their members of what is going on in their Lodge. This is unacceptable! Every executive member is responsible for ensuring that the members have a say in the operations of their Lodge. I've heard that many Lodges are essentially non-operational. This too is not acceptable. So, what should you do? EMAIL THE EXECUTIVE. We can help in any number of ways and at this time in our evolution, the Association recognizes that we must step up to help...so please reach out either to me directly (867-333-0440 or sourdough@klondiker.com) or or to the Elks Secretary (elks.secretary@abelks.org) . Lynda has been AMAZING at setting up ZOOM meetings for Lodges and Districts!

Please stay tuned to your email and our newsletter for more information about Conference, Convention and other upcoming events.

Stay healthy...stay active...and stay safe.
In Elkdom,
Barbara Evans

Food for Thought...

For so many years, we as members have been heard we need to build our membership. How about we keep and appreciate the members that we do have? Allow them to step into positions on the Executive, if the Lodge has enough members to do so. We as Lodge members have to look inward particularly if we have sat in Executive positions for many years. A person makes a mistake? Don't jump on them but take the time to help. Encouragement goes a long way!!

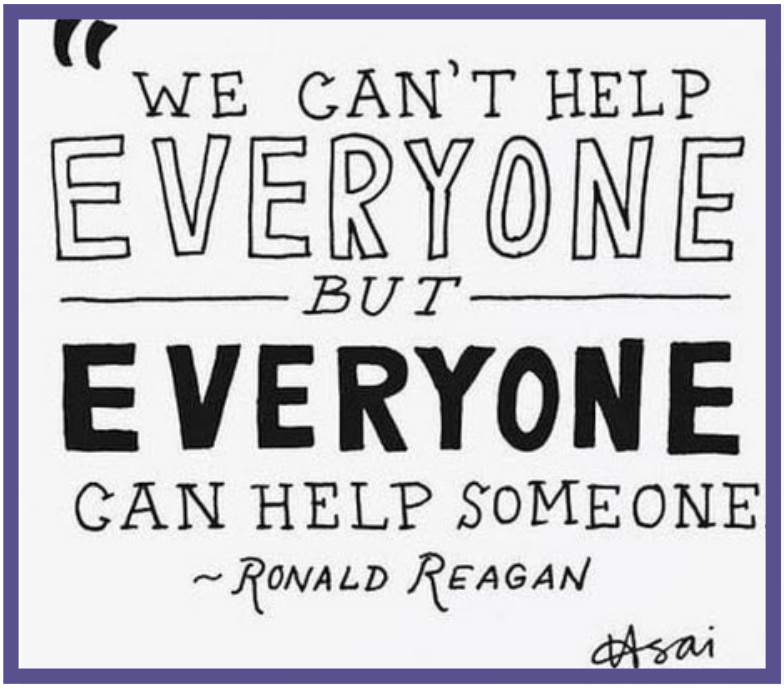
Has your Lodge willingly let a member propose a project and has it been allowed to be tried? Or was the comment "we tried this before and it didn't work" used? Comments such as these deflate a member and do not encourage them to want to help out!! In a lot of cases, they do not continue to attend the meetings.

Has your Lodge gone out into the community and honestly tried to do a project, no matter what size it is? Have you sat down with an acquaintance, had a coffee, not pressed them to be a member but asked them what project could be done in your community? You may be surprised what you find out!!

What would the cost of hosting a hot dog day for your community or a local school actually cost you? All projects don't need to make money but they sure go a long way in getting your name out in the community. An outdoor skating rink is not that difficult especially if you get the community helping you out. Need the initial flood? I bet the local fire department would be willing to do this work.

An aging Lodge membership is no reason as to stop doing projects. Reach out to your community, accept the suggestions and the help. After the project is done, a simple thank you dinner (beef on a bun or something similar) goes a long way and will definitely lead to perhaps not another initiated member but a community member who will not only speak well of your Lodge and its members but be willing to come out and help again.

Fresh eyes can refresh your Lodge – don't sit back too long or there will be no local Lodge and definitely no Elks of Canada. That is not something I wish to see!!



Elks Trivia

1. What year was the Elks of Canada Formed?
2. Where was the first Elks of Canada lodge located?
3. Known as "Oklahoma's Favorite Son" this actor was a member of the USA Elks. Who is he?
4. US President to quote "Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate." was a member of the US Elks. Who was he ?
5. Which GER served three consecutive years as GER and passed away at National Convention

Answers
(1) 1912 (2) Vancouver (3) Will Rogers (4) JF Kennedy (5) Bro. E.E. Hand

Elks Proud



"Here Fishy, Fishy, Fishy!!
Check out
Didsbury Elks Campground

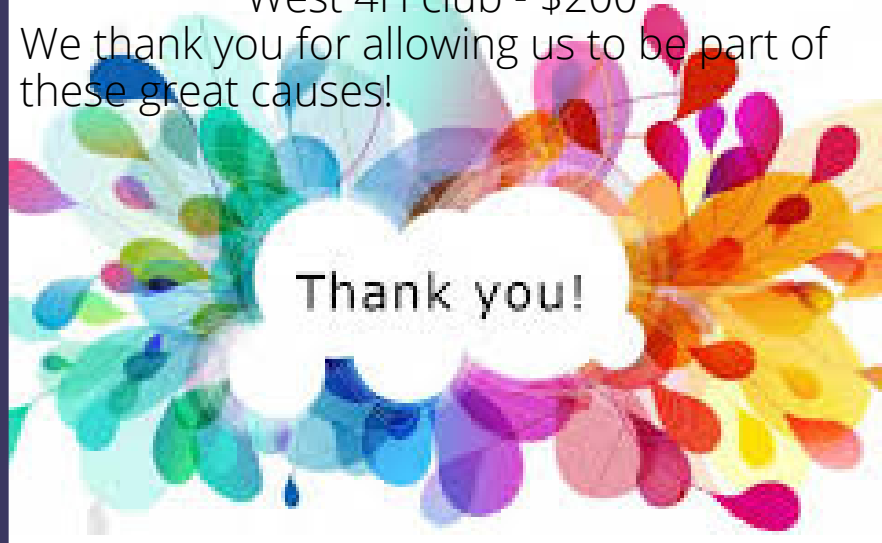
The fish have started to arrive. We received our first shipment of Rainbow Trout and today we received a 100 Tiger Trout. The pond is stocking up nicely for all of our guests and we can't wait to welcome you all for another great season! Who's ready for some fishing

SHOUT OUT!!
Carstairs Elks #556

Carstairs has been **BUSY** despite this "pandemic" that's going on lately. What an amazing way to keep us all #ElksProud!! The Carstairs Elks has recently had the opportunity to contribute to the following organizations in our community:

Carstairs Lions Food Bank - $1000
Mountain View Food Bank - $1000
West 4H club - $200

We thank you for allowing us to be part of these great causes!



Senior's Hall sees almost $5000 in support

Between larger donations and individual ones, Fay Clease with the Dawson Creek Senior's Hall says almost $5,000 has been raised by the community through donations.

"It has been great so far," she notes. The organization reached out the Mirror after noting a lack of operational funding – and unable to cover monthly bills for the hall.

The Mirror was on hand last week for Frank Ripley's donation, while this week we caught the Dawson Creek and area Elks Doug Becote with $2,000 (right), and DC Recycling donating to the hall and its (grand) parent group – the South Peace Senior Citizens Association.

The Association is the non profit running the day to day business of the seniors hall. The association manages the facilities of the organization and provides seniors activities – should gathering be allowed once again.

"At this time we have floor curling, carpet bowling, an exercise group line dancing, darts, pools crib, bridge and crafts – was well as Monday lunches," she notes.

Income comes from membership fees and hall rentals – which are not happening at the moment.

"Due to the pandemic we have been closed for a year and this has affected our operating account," says Clease.

"Thank you to all of these people for their generous donations thus far," adds Clease.

editor@dcdn.ca



Dawson Creek Lodge #289 donates $2,000 to the Dawson Creek Senior's Hall. They annually support with $1,000 to graduating students from South Peace Secondary School, and the those displaced from house fires. BROWN

Elks Proud



Breton Elks members got together and assumed the roles of the clean up/maintenance crew for the Breton Campground. The crew spent a full day recently levelling sites, trimming trees, relocating fire pits and generally preparing for the busy season ahead. Great work crew!!





Carstairs Elks was happy to donate $1000 to the Girl Guides last week. The Girl Guides is an amazing organization and we are glad we can help support.



NEED HELP TO ZOOM??

Did you know the Alberta Elks Association has some self-help documents for using Zoom? Look on the Alberta Elks Association website under "Resources". There you will find a word document and a Power Point presentation that clearly explains what to do. Still have questions - call the office and a mini-meeting can be arranged to help



Elks Proud

District 4 and 5 District ZOOM Meeting

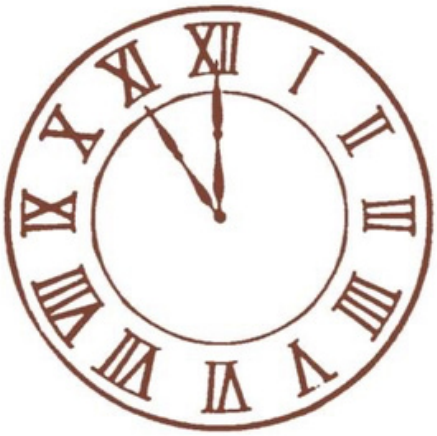


So great to see the turn out for the District 4&5 Spring Meeting ! Thank you to the over 30 members from the Lodges who joined us, it was nice to see you all and catch up on what has been happening with you and your members. We were so happy to be joined as well by our Past Provincial Presidents (4!) Brothers Darren, Vic, Leonard and Jim as well as our GL members Brother Leonard and Brother Gordon. We are happy to see so many faces able to navigate our online platform and will hopefully see many more faces joining us as we get closer to Conference in June.





"The clock of their day has stopped...
across its face the motionless shadow marks the Hour of Eleven."



It is with extreme sadness we must inform you of the passing of

Brother Bob Deans
January 20, 2021
Three Hills Elks Lodge #190

Brother Graeme Carlson
April 11, 2021
Stavely Elks Lodge #112

Brother Lyle Webb
April 18, 2021
Three Hills Elks Lodge #190

For their years of service and dedication to the Elks organization, they will always be remembered.
Rest in peace Brothers and Sisters